



ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

Central Council
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1992-1993 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

This report has been prepared for the benefit of the 1993 General Assembly.

OVERVIEW

The ACYOA continues to be the only viable youth movement within the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. This does not mean, however, that our organization is thriving. While our national programs continue to be successful (for example, the National Sports Weekend and the Armenian Studies Program), our chapter structure is weak. The single goal for the coming year must be to build up our parish-based youth groups -- our chapters.

On the national level, our ACYOA needs leaders who are able to commit themselves to placing service to the Church and the ACYOA at the top of their priority lists.

But the ACYOA cannot do this alone. Our diocese must commit even greater resources to youth programs, our clergy must be given an opportunity to participate in workshops and training in youth issues, our parishes must have youth directors, and our Church must continue to seek and provide answers for young people who question the relevance of the Church beyond the Year 2000.

Our ACYOA programs this past year also included a Chapter A Mission Program visitation to Wynnewood, a Lenten Retreat at the Trinity Retreat House in Larchmont, NY, the Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Invitational Tournament (Wynnewood), and the ACYOA Anniversary Ball Weekend and St. Vartan Cathedral Celebration in New York City. Our members also participated in the Jerusalem Internship Program, and attended the ACYOC and ACYOWD General Assemblies. A Chapter Chairmen's Meeting was held in conjunction with the ACYOA Anniversary Ball Weekend.

CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEETINGS

The 1992-1993 ACYOA Central Council members were as follows:

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian	President
— Charles H. Shooshan III (Hartford)	Chairman
— Gary Alexander (Cambridge)	Vice Chairman
Jay Kapur (Worcester) *	Treasurer
Laura Gononian (Detroit) **	Recording Secretary
Lucine Baronian (Bayside) **	Recording Secretary
John Diradourian (Bayside)	Corresponding Secretary
— Rena Jebejian (Boca Raton)	Advisor
Pamela Moroukian (Watervliet)	Advisor
Arpi Bouroujian (Richmond) *	Advisor

* Lucine Baronian (formerly the first alternate) filled the vacancy created by Laura Gononian's leaving Central Council, 10/92.

** Arpi Bouroujian (formerly the second alternate) filled the vacancy created by Jay Kapur's leaving Central Council, 5/93.

At the conclusion of the 1993 General Assembly, Charles H. Shooshan III (two terms), Gary Alexander (one term), and Rena Jebejian (one term) will have completed their current terms on Central Council. Lucine Baronian, John Diradourian, Pamela Moroukian, and Arpi Bouroujian have one year remaining in their terms.

Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian and Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian have been of assistance to Central Council in their capacities as Director of the Department of Youth Ministry and Chancellor of the Diocese respectively.

In addition, Laura Gononian, formerly of Central Council, has given substantially of her time and of her skills in her capacity as Youth Coordinator of the Department of Youth Ministry.

The Central Council held the following meetings:

September 5, 1992	Uniondale, New York
October 10, 1992	Hartford, Connecticut
December 11-12, 1992	Watertown, Massachusetts
January 16, 1992	Newton, Massachusetts
February 5-6, 1993	New York, New York
March 20, 1993	New York, New York
May 21, 1993	Wynnewood, Pennsylvania
July 31, 1993	New York, New York

A brief summary of these meetings is, as follows:

September 5, 1992: This transitional meeting represents the beginning of our Central Council year. The meeting was held Saturday of Sports Weekend. All new members were briefed on Central Council operations and procedures. Officers and regional assignments were selected for the 1992-1993 year. Although there was no treasurer's report, Council discussed the need to pursue two receivables (from Boca Raton and Richmond). Gary Alexander agreed to help with publicity for scholarships for St. Vartan Camp. Rena Jebejian accepted the task of sending quarterly reports to the chapters (as required by the 1992 General Assembly). Stephen Megrdochian was chosen to chair the Fund Raising Committee. Plans for an ACYOA celebration of the 25th Anniversary of St. Vartan Cathedral were discussed. Council then discussed the sending of various letters of greeting and thank you.

October 10, 1992: Stephen Megrdochian announced a meeting date for the Fund Raising Committee. Dues notices for 1992 and 1993 would be sent out. The details of the ACYOA Gregory Arpajian Leadership Fund were discussed. Central Council program assignments were discussed. Details of the planned Chapter "A" visitation to Wynnewood were discussed. Charles Shooshan and Rena Jebejian indicated that they were the Council members who would be available to attend the Diocesan Assembly as ACYOA representatives. Inter-Diocesan ACYO relations and coordination were discussed. Jay Kapur asked Council members to send letters to their Congressional representatives in support of Armenians in Karabagh. Rena Jebejian distributed activity forms to Council members to aid in her preparation of quarterly reports. Amendments and proposals presented and passed at the 1992 General Assembly were reviewed. A discussion followed the meeting (with Fr. Mardiros Chevian) concerning the ACYOA's celebration of the cathedral anniversary.

December 11-12, 1992: Due to severe inclement weather, only Charles H. Shooshan III and Gary Alexander were able to make this meeting.

They discussed upcoming programs and Gary Alexander's report concerning the ACYOWD General Assembly.

January 16, 1993: The meeting began with a treasurer's report. It was noted that no progress has been made regarding the Boca Raton and Richmond receivables. Monthly activity reports were completed. The Chapter "A" visitation to Wynnewood was discussed. The upcoming "Sharers of Faith" meeting ("Summit Meeting") was discussed. John Diradourian reported on the ACYOA Anniversary Ball/St. Vartan Cathedral Celebration plans. This meeting had been planned in conjunction with the National Fund Raising Committee meeting. Unfortunately, the Fund Raising Committee meeting did not take place because of the lack of committee attendance. Plans were made for a visitation to Cleveland. A discussion followed concerning the 1994 separation of the General Assembly and National Sports Weekend.

February 5-6, 1993: Lucine Baronian was welcomed to her first Central Council meeting. It was reported that Boca Raton would be sending the funds owed regarding the 1991 Anniversary Ball. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian announced that the additional very generous donation pledged by Edward and Helen Mardigian at the 1991 General Assembly has been received. Charles H. Shooshan III reported that he extended best wishes for the New Year to the Mardigians and our prayers for Edward Mardigian's health. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian expressed his concern about youth participation in our Church. Laura Gononian then proposed a plan to strengthen and create new chapters. The plan was discussed at length. Central Council members were assigned chapters/parishes for this plan and the Primate announced that he would send a letter to all parish priests and parish councils explaining the plan. The Anniversary Ball was again discussed. It was announced that Lisa Manookian, acting for the Fund Raising Committee, will be meeting with the Diocesan Administrator and Director of Development. Plans were also made to help in the location of food and supplies for aid to Armenia.

March 20, 1993: Lucine Baronian reported on the success of the ACYOA Lenten Retreat. It was decided to continue this retreat for future years. Rena Jebejian reported that the first quarterly report was sent out and that the feedback was good. A mailing is planned for ACYOA Day (Palm Sunday) and various chapter plans for ACYOA Day were discussed. The implementation of Project Growth was discussed. Letters and telephone contacts were made with varying responses. The 1994 General Assembly and 1994 National Sports Weekend were discussed. Mailings for the Armenian Studies Program were discussed.

May 21, 1993: This meeting began with input from Lisa Manookian and her concerns about ACYOA. Lisa Manookian also reported on the

"Archbishop Tournament" at which event the Central Council meeting was taking place. An involved discussion followed concerning the credibility and status of ACYOA. Favorable reports concerning upcoming programs were received. Charles H. Shooshan III reported on the Diocesan Assembly and the virtual unanimity of ACYOA as part of the background of our Diocesan delegates. Rena Jebejian is planning to send out the next quarterly report to the chapters. The need for greater chapter communication was discussed. The Chapter Chair Meeting and its importance for feedback and education was also a matter on the agenda. Finally, the Central Council discussed the difficulty in finding bids for 1994 national events.

July 31, 1993: This meeting is reserved for preparation for the General Assembly and Sports Weekend. There were no Proposals or Proposed Amendments to discuss. The General Assembly Agenda was reviewed. Plans for a dynamic speaker for our General Assembly were reviewed and discussed. A report was given on the progress of the Sports Weekend Committee. The lack of bids for 1994 National Events were discussed. Annual national awards were discussed. The need for quality Central Council candidates was discussed. It was especially noted that the ACYOA needs leaders who are able to dedicate a great deal of their time to ACYOA.

PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

1992 General Assembly and Sports Weekend

The 1992 ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend was held in Uniondale, New York (Bayside chapter) from September 2-7, 1992. The General Assembly was attended by over sixty clergy and delegates from twenty parishes. The General Assembly focused on the problems of the ACYOA but there was little volunteering on the part of attendees to take personal action. The General Assembly featured four short presentations about ACYOA programs or participation by ACYOA members in special activities. Besides representatives from the Canadian and Western Dioceses, we were blessed with two youth from the Araratian Diocese representing their new youth organization.

The Primate's Delegate Luncheon on Friday afforded all an opportunity to converse with the Primate and as always was a highlight of the assembly.

The sports were enthusiastic and well attended.

The evening activities included a dinner in New York City, a tour of the St. Vartan Cathedral and Diocesan Offices, and New York Harbor cruise.

"Chapter A" Assistance Program

This year's "mission team" from Hartford traveled to Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, for a weekend program. Although the "turnout" for the program was very small, those who attended were very pleased with the presentation. In addition, all of the Hartford "team members" volunteered to participate in any future mission visits. Of course, the Hartford chapter is still looking forward to its Chapter "A" visitation for its Chapter "A" award of 1992.

1992-1993 ACYOA/ACYOC Inter-Diocesan Meetings

The ACYOA and ACYOC Central Councils did not meet together as a group this year. However, there continues to be a good relationship between these sister organizations. The respective chairs reviewed the minutes of the prior Joint Central Council Meeting by telephone and began to implement some of the administrative decisions of the group. For example, space is afforded each Central Council in the respective Sports Weekend Booklets and publications.

1993 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Tournament

The Tournament was held in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, from May 21-23, 1993. ACYOA chapter participation and local parish participation in the tournament weekend was somewhat disappointing, however, the competition was very good, and the teams that did attend indicated that they would like the tournament to continue in future years. On a very positive note, the dance was well-attended by ACYOA Juniors in the area. The Central Council wishes to thank and compliment our Wynnewood members, and particularly, Lisa Manookian, for their efforts.

1993 Jerusalem Internship Program

Through the initial efforts of ACYOA Central Council members, Fr. Mardiros Chevian (Director, Department of Youth Ministry), and Laura Gononian, this relatively new program provides a means for ACYOA young professionals to lend their special expertise to the Patriarchate. This program must be continued and supported by the ACYOA as it affords an unequalled opportunity to both serve and experience the

Church. The program ran from approximately June 17, 1993, to July 29, 1993.

1993 ACYOA Armenian Studies Program

The Armenian Studies Program continues to be the most cherished and most rewarding of all ACYOA programs. Each year this program has been offered, our members return with new vitality and new lifelong friends. This year's program was sponsored in Armenia by the Araratian Diocese. The group divided its time between the Lake Sevan area and the homes of youth in the Yerevan area. The program included discussions, sightseeing, worship, home visits, and sharing life with Armenian youth and their families. The approximate dates: June 28, 1993, to July 28, 1993.

1993 ACYOA Anniversary Ball Weekend and Chapter Chairmen's Meeting

This weekend was really something special. This year, this program also served as the ACYOA's celebration of the 25th Anniversary of St. Vartan Cathedral. Friday night included a live jazz reception on the Plaza (of the Diocesan offices). The "Anniversary Ball" was Saturday night and there was a brunch on the Plaza after Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Divine Liturgy also included a small youth orchestra accompanying the choir and youth participation in readings, greeting parishioners, and altar service.

This is also the third year for the Chapter Chairmen's meeting. Fifteen chapters were represented. The purpose of this meeting is to give Chapter Chairmen an opportunity to give their input, compliments, and complaints to the Primate and Central Council. This year the meeting emphasized the need for the chapters to be strengthened. The meeting also included a workshop with Elise Antreassian, DRE Co-Director, on topics of "Discipleship" and "The Family of Churches."

PUBLICATIONS

The ACYOA publication, Hye Hokin, was not published this year. This publication continues to suffer from a lack of staff volunteers.

ARMENIAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

The ACYOA's income from the Armenian Church Endowment Fund continues to be a major component of the ACYOA's annual budget.

Please refer to the Treasurer's Report for a complete report of the status of our funds in the ACEF.

ACYOA GREGORY ARPAJIAN LEADERSHIP FUND

This fund was created after the passing of our great friend and ACYOA leader, Gregory Arpajian (Cleveland). This fund is maintained as a sub-account within the ACYOA ACEF account. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report.

The Fund, currently, through income on the endowment, affords the ACYOA Central Council the opportunity to provide two scholarships to youth for attendance at the St. Vartan Summer Conferences, and also to provide an annual Leadership Award presented at the National Sports Weekend Banquet. The Fund Committee consists of ACYOA Central Council along with a representative of the Cleveland ACYOA chapter.

CENTRAL COUNCIL VISITATIONS AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

September

(September 2-7, 1992, Uniondale, NY)
1993 ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend
All Central Council Members in Attendance

(September 22, 1992, Brookline, MA)
Slide presentation given to student assembly at Holy Cross (Greek Orthodox) Seminary.
Charles H. Shooshan III

A visitation was also made to Phoenix by Pamela Moroukian.

October

(October 16, 1992, Hartford, CT)
Chapter "A" Mission Team Meeting
Charles H. Shooshan III

(October 29, 1992 - November 1, 1992 Cambridge, MA)
Attendance and representation of ACYOA at Choir Convention
Gary Alexander

November

(November 6-8, 1992, Wynnewood, PA)
Participation in presentation of Chapter "A" Mission Program
Charles H. Shooshan III

(November 27-29, 1992, California)
ACYOWD General Assembly -- ACYOA Central Council representative
addressed the delegates and participated in meetings; plans were
made to include the Western Diocese in 1993 Inter-Diocesan
Activities
Gary Alexander

December

(December 18-20, 1992, Washington, DC)
Chapter visitation to Washington; plans were discussed for
possible Chapter "A" visitation
Charles H. Shooshan III
Gary Alexander

January

Visitations were made to Miami and Orlando by Rena Jebejian.
A visitation was made to Tenafly by John Diradourian.

February

(February 27, 1993, New York, NY)
Sharers of the Faith (Summit) Meeting
Charles H. Shooshan III
John Diradourian

March

(March 19-21, 1993, Larchmont, NY)
Central Council participation and support of ACYOA Lenten Retreat
Charles H. Shooshan III
Lucine Baronian
Pamela Moroukian
Rena Jebejian
John Diradourian

April

(April 23-25, 1993, Cleveland, OH)
Visitation to chapter and participation in "mini" retreat
Charles H. Shooshan III

May

(April 29-May 2, 1993, Chicago, IL)
Attendance and short presentation at the 1993 Diocesan Assembly
Charles H. Shooshan III
(Sara Andonian also represented the ACYOA at the Assembly)

(May 28-31, 1993, California)
ACYOWD National Sports Weekend -- ACYOA Central Council
representation at the event; plans for greater Inter-Diocesan
interaction discussed
Gary Alexander

June

(June 4, 1993, Watertown, MA)
Primate's Meeting with Central Council Chairman and 1993 ACYOA
General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee
Charles H. Shooshan III

July

(June 30 - July 4, 1993, Mississauga, ON)
1993 ACYOC General Assembly and Sports Weekend -- Central Council
Attendance at our sister organization's Assembly and Weekend
at which ACYOA Central Council Chairman addressed the Assembly
Charles H. Shooshan III

August

(July 30 - August 1, 1993, New York, NY)
1993 ACYOA Chapter Chairmen's Meeting -- described above
Charles H. Shooshan III
Gary Alexander
Rena Jebejian
Lucine Baronian
Pamela Moroukian
Arpi Bouroujian

(August 15, 1993, Paramus, NJ)
Attendance at Annual Regional ACYOA Softball Game and Picnic
Charles H. Shooshan III

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: September 2, 1993

Charles H. Shooshan III
Chairman, ACYOA Central Council

